

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

REMARKS

STATINTL

OF
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BOBBY R. INMAN
AND COUNSEL TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL RICHARD K. WILLARD
ON THE NEW EXECUTIVE ORDER ON
UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES

The Briefing Room

2:50 P.M. EST

ADMIRAL INMAN: Ladies and gentlemen of the press and distinguished guests, it is my pleasure on behalf of the intelligence community to welcome the President's new Executive Order on United States Intelligence Activities.

The order is the result of intensive interagency study by the intelligence community, the Department of Justice, other interested Executive Branch elements, as well as consultation with the Congress through the intelligence oversight committees.

The new order, as did its predecessors, serves two main purposes. First, it establishes the organization, structure, and mission of the intelligence community in a public document. Until President Ford's order in 1976, these matters were spelled out primarily in classified directives of the National Security Council.

Secondly, the order establishes basic ground rules and standards for the conduct of intelligence activities that may affect Americans and American institutions. These ground rules and standards are vital for two reasons. First, there must be no doubt that the rights of Americans will be respected and preserved during the course of intelligence activities that may affect them.

Second, professional intelligence officers deserve to be told in as clear terms as are possible the proper limits for their activities. This is to ensure that they will not be unfairly placed in jeopardy for the performance of difficult, sometimes dangerous, and usually unsung activities on behalf of their country.

The President's order accomplishes these purposes which I have just described. The new order sets clear goals for the intelligence community and emphasizes that these goals are to be accomplished in accordance with law, provisions of the order, and regard for the rights of Americans.

Consideration of the rights of Americans and the need for clear, understandable guidelines for intelligence activities were the factors that shaped Part 2 of the new order. The new order clearly and affirmatively authorizes the essential intelligence activities that may affect Americans. Collection and other activities will continue to be conducted pursuant to procedures established by the head of each intelligence agency and approved by the Attorney General. Such procedures will continue to be provided to the intelligence oversight committees of the Congress as an integral part of the oversight process.

A key objective of the new order is the simplification of guidelines and standards for the conduct of intelligence activities which in turn will permit shorter, more understandable implementing procedures. The detailed, complex provisions of the previous order led to such lengthy procedures that it virtually required a lawyer to decipher them. That situation led to a reluctance to undertake perfectly legitimate activities. Thus, standards

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-2-

that were unnecessarily complex or that proved unworkable in light of experience have been modified. Those governing the use of physical surveillance abroad fall in this category. As a result of such changes, we anticipate substantially shortened and more usable procedures, and enhanced performance.

In summary, we are happy to have the President's new order, which will enable the intelligence community to get back to the work at hand, continued improvement of our collection and analytical capabilities.

It is vitally important that that job always be accomplished in a manner that retains the support of the Congress and the public, and I am confident that we will continue to build that support under this order.

On behalf of the President, I especially thank Chairman Goldwater and Chairman Boland and the members of the intelligence oversight committees for their constructive and helpful comments, as well as Stan Sporkin, CIA's General Counsel, and other members of the intelligence community who worked so hard on the order.

Mr. Willard has a brief statement on behalf of the Attorney General.

MR. WILLARD: Ladies and gentlemen, the President's decision to issue new executive orders governing United States intelligence activities and continuing the President's Intelligence Oversight Board has the full support of the Attorney General.

These orders replace Executive Order 12036, which was adopted in the last Administration. The new orders are shorter, simpler, and designed to increase the effectiveness of lawful intelligence practices. The Attorney General believes that the new orders strike a more reasonable balance between the need for essential intelligence and respect for civil liberties.

Under the new orders the Attorney General will continue to have a substantial role in reviewing, authorizing, and overseeing U.S. intelligence activities. First, he will continue to be involved in review of covert operations and other sensitive activities that raise legal questions. Second, he will continue to decide on a case-by-case basis whether to approve the use of certain intrusive techniques in the United States or targeted at Americans abroad. Third, he will continue to be involved in developing procedures to guide the conduct of intelligence activities that could have an impact upon Americans. Fourth, he will continue to receive and investigate reports of possible violations of law by intelligence agency employees, or other persons.

In summary, the Attorney General is satisfied that the new orders provide him with ample authority to insure that intelligence activities are conducted in a lawful manner and with due regard for the liberties of Americans.

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In addition to his community-wide responsibilities, the Attorney General supervises the Federal Bureau of Investigation.